

# SIDNEY STRICKLAND AND ASSOCIATES, PLLC

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September 12, 2005



Honorable Vernon A. Williams  
Surface Transportation Board  
1925 K Street, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20423-0001

214734

Re: Surface Transportation Board ("STB") Docket No. AB-6 (Sub-No. 426X); BNSF  
Railway Company ("BNSF") Abandonment between Matagorda and Wharton Counties, TX

Dear Secretary Williams:

On September 9, 2004, BNSF filed a Notice of Exemption seeking authority to abandon or discontinue service of approximately 20.89 miles of rail line between BNSF milepost 66.95 in Bay City and milepost 54.00 near Cane Junction and between milepost 0.00 near Cane Junction and milepost 7.94 near Newgulf, in Matagorda and Wharton Counties, TX. The line traverses United States Postal Service Zip Codes 77414, 77420 and 77482. Notice of the exemption was served and published in the Federal Register on September 29, 2004 (69 FR 58227-28). By decision served on October 28, 2004, the STB reopened the matter to impose environmental conditions. The exemption became effective on October 29, 2004. The present consummation deadline is October 29, 2005.

Due to negotiations with various local interests, salvage operations on this line have been delayed. Those negotiations are now complete and salvage operations on the line are likely to commence shortly. Accordingly, BNSF requests an extension of the consummation deadline until March 31, 2006.

Please acknowledge receipt of this letter by date stamping the enclosed copy of this letter and returning it to me in the enclosed self-addressed stamped envelope.

Ten (10) additional copies of this letter are enclosed for the Board's use and distribution.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (202) 295-4024.

Sincerely,

Sidney L. Strickland, Jr.  
SLS/cac

cc: James Gallegos  
Jerry Johnson  
Richard Batie  
Dalen Wintermute  
John Sims

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